Kodansha Comics BETSUFURE

KCB 1575

南波あつこ

スプラウト

7

スプラウト

sprout

KC 別フレ

南波あつこ

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KC BETSUFURE

講談社
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(税別)

SOUHEI HAS MOVED OUT OF THE HOUSE.
NOW HE'S JUST SOMEONE IN THE SAME GRADE AS MIKU.
AMIDST THE CONFUSION FROM THE CIRCUMSTANCES
THEY CAN'T CHANGE, THE TIME
FOR THE SWERS HAS COME.
"SPROUT" IS REACHING
ITS CONCLUSION

THANK YOU.

COMING HOME

THIS IS THE FINAL VOLUME
THANK YOU FOR BEARING WITH ME
THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO READ
THE SERIES AND THOSE
WHO HELPED ME
I'M GOING ON A TRIP FOR THE
HEART FOR A SHORT WHILE
THANK YOU!

Cover design
Michie Fukumura
for Phantom Studio Inc.

Nanba Atsuko's Series

Taiyou wa kimi ni kagayaku
Kawaiitte itte yo
Senpai to kanojo (2 Volumes)
Sprout (7 Volumes)

BF Love Collection

Koraekirenai namida
Massugu ni junai
Kono koi wo wasurenai

ON POPULAR SALE!

Sprout

by Nanba Atsuko

Volume 07 Chapter 25

Scanners: Mioka92 & Cheezy
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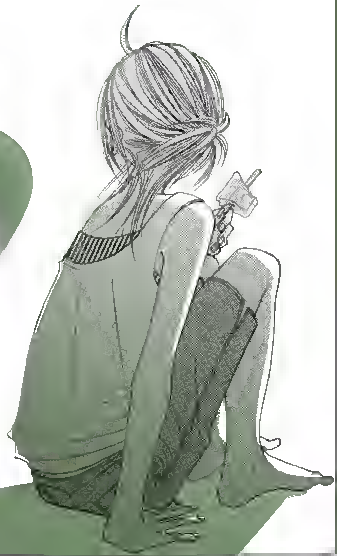

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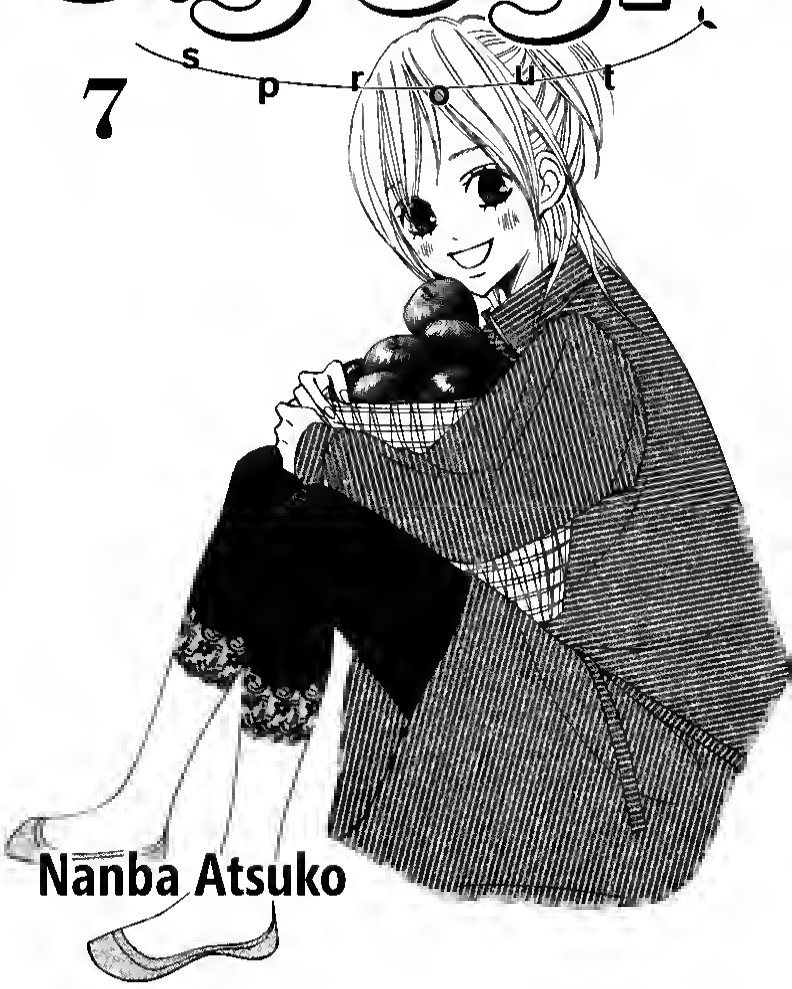
7



Nanba Atsuko

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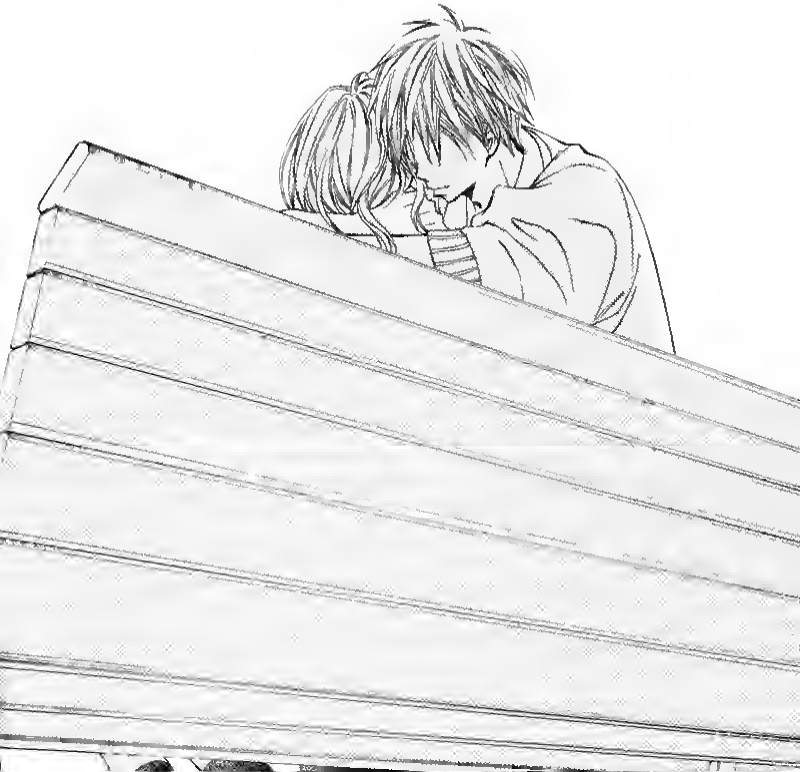
Final Chapter : Love 121

STORY THUS FAR:

IKENOUCHI MIYU IS A HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMAN. HER PARENTS STARTED ACCEPTING BOARDERS TO THEIR HOUSE, AND THERE HAVE BEEN THREE TAKERS. MIKU'S ATTRACTED TO ONE OF THEM – NARAHASHI SOUHEI – BUT HE ALREADY HAS A GIRLFRIEND NAMED MIYUKI. BUT, EVER SINCE SOUHEI STARTED BOARDING, MIYUKI HAS NOTICED A CHANGE IN HIM, AND THAT HAS STARTED TO PUT A STRAIN ON THEIR RELATIONSHIP. AT THE TIME, SOUHEI HAS DECIDED TO LEAVE THE BOARDING HOUSE, MUCH TO THE SHOCK OF MIKU. AT THE SAME TIME, SOUHEI AND MIKU'S RELATIONSHIP HAS BECOME THE TOPIC AT THEIR SCHOOL, AND MIYUKI TELLS SOUHEI, "I'M TROUBLED" ?!

THIS STORY IS FICTION
THERE ARE NO CONNECTIONS TO REAL PEOPLE, ORGANIZATIONS, OR EVENTS

Chapter 25 ✤ After the Rain



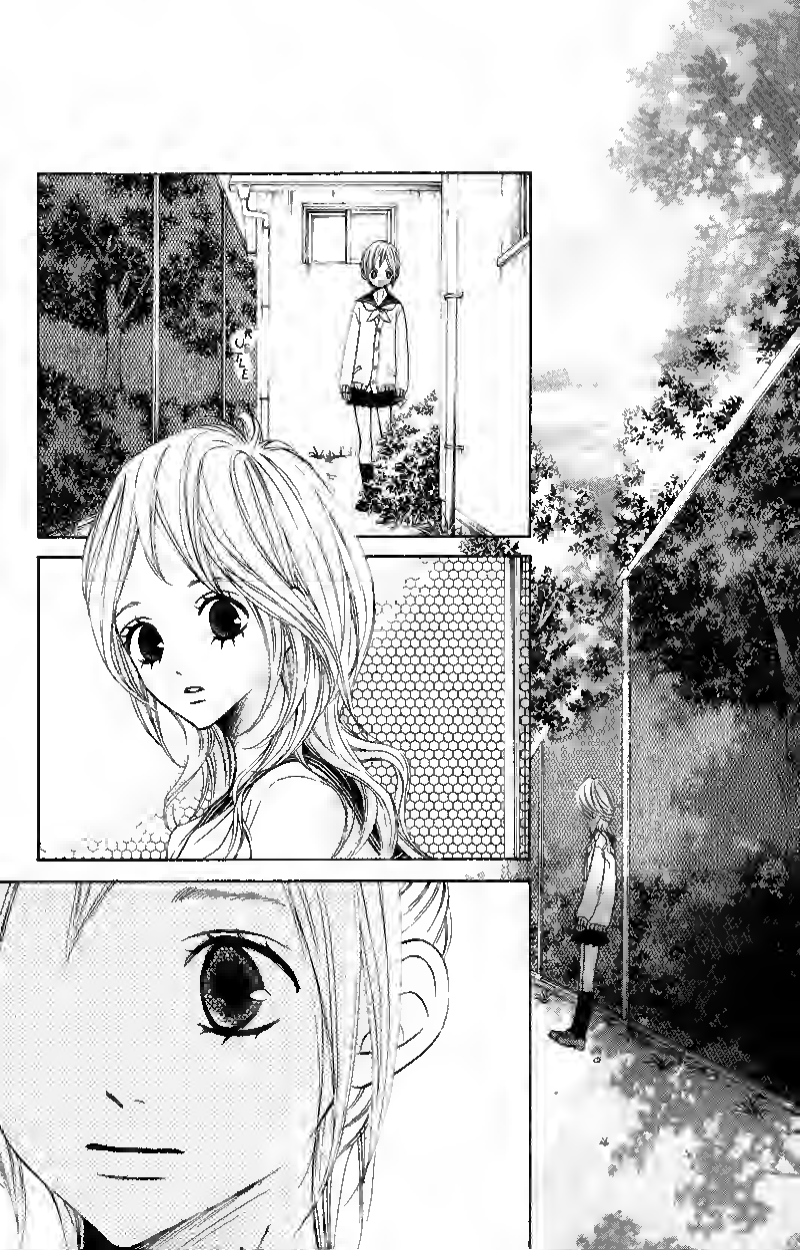
...SOU-CHAN?
I
I
WORRY SOMETIMES.

THAT MIYU
WOULD BE FINE WITH SOMEONE, EVEN IF IT'S NOT ME.
THAT TIME, I JUST HAPPENED TO BE THE ONE YOU TALKED TO, SO
THAT'S WHY YOU CHOSE ME...

I WAS ALWAYS UNSURE

THAT EVEN IF IT WASN'T ME, OTHER GUYS WOULD BE OKAY.

Morning
chatter
chatter



To Mu-chan
I'd like to talk
to you after
class
Please
come
YOU
CAME.
...YEAH.
YOU
SAID
YOU
WANTED
TO TALK

SOU-CHAN...
WHEN HE SEES SOMEONE IN TROUBLE, HE CAN'T LEAVE THEM ALONE.
...THAT'S TRUE.

THAT TIME...
BY THE SCHOOL GATES,
WHEN HE TOOK ME WITH HIM,
IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT TOO, I THINK.
BECAUSE I WAS TROUBLED.
—

...THAT'S ALL.
YOU'RE RIGHT
HE'D DO THE SAME FOR ANYONE.

IT WAS THE SAME WITH ME TOO.
...SOU-CHAN
SAID THAT HE LIKES ME.

...I KNOW.
MIKU-CHAN,

DO YOU LIKE SOU-CHAN?
YES.

LET ME BORROW YOUR DS—
I want to play the drums
HMM~
HEY, HEY!
IT'S IN MY ROOM, JUST TAKE IT...
I SEE.

STANDS
flip
vibrating
Incoming >> Takigawa
Kya!
HELLO!!
Ah! Onii-chan?*
*Onii-chan = older brother
His voice sounds nice
beep
BE SURE TO LISTEN TO WHAT MOM AND DAD SAY, OKAY? OKAY, BYE.
HA HA HA HA
THAT'S GOOD. ARRIVING HOME IS PART OF THE FIELD TRIP
EH? YOU'VE ARRIVED HOME SAFELY?
REALLY, YOU'VE BEEN SLEEPING ALL DAY SINCE YESTERDAY!!
Go freshen up a bit!
Hmmm
Hey!
Eh!
COLLAPSE

HAA
HAA
HAA
THE HP* I'VE RECOVERED HAS BEEN SHOT DOWN AND I'M AT THE VERGE OF DEATH
Hey are you ok?
I'm dead
YOU...
WHY ARE YOU SO CAREFUL AROUND YOUR OWN BROTHERS?
Right now a slime attack would kill me
NO WAY. I'm NOT BEING CARE-FUL.
sweat
sweat
AH! A CALL... IT'S FROM YOUR BROTHERS
Again
Stands
KIDDING.
*HP stands for health points, it's a common gaming lingo
Ah, this time
he died
YOU ARE BEING CAREFUL.
WHY?

...IT'S JUST THAT
I'M ALMOST 10 YEARS OLDER THAN THEY ARE ..
Onii-chan
Onii-chan
WHEN THEY WERE STILL KIDS, I WAS ALREADY HERE STUDYING, SO
WE WERE ONLY ABLE TO SEE EACH OTHER TWICE A YEAR.
Like on year-end festivals
Nacharu is an exception!
DAD
MOM
UP 'TIL HIGH SCHOOL, I'VE BEEN A GOOD KID IN MY OWN WAY,
AND MY PARENTS, SEEING THAT AS A GOOD CHANCE,
It's Takiguchi-kun!
Take it as you're old
Souhei got it right on the mark!
EMBEL-LISHED
MY PAST...

※ Contains a bit of truth
ONII-CHAN, IS IT TRUE THAT YOU WERE PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL, CHAIRMAN OF PUBLIC MORALE COMMITTEE, AND THE CLASS REPRESENTATIVE IN HIGH SCHOOL ALL AT THE SAME TIME?!
Middle school, 2nd year
※ Contains a bit of truth
ONII-CHAN, IS IT TRUE THAT YOU WERE THE CAPTAIN OF THE BASEBALL TEAM DURING MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND YOU WERE NUMBER 4 AND A PITCHER, AND AT THE DECIDING MATCH, YOU HIT A HOMERUN WITH ALL THE BASES LOADED, COMING UP FROM BEHIND THE OPPONENT TO WIN THE MATCH?!
Eeh?!
Elementary, 6th grade
※ Did it once
ONII-CHAN, IS IT TRUE THAT YOU GOT STRAIGHT A'S ALL THROUGHOUT ELEMENTARY?!
MOM
sayin'
Eeh?!
Elementary, 4th grade
WHO IS THAT?!
I didn't think they'd believe me. After that, I couldn't take it back.
IT ALL STARTED WITH MY MISTAKE OF SAYING YEAH WELL WHEN THEY ASKED ME ABOUT THE STRAIGHT AS
...BUT THOSE TWO
GREW UP TO BE SUCH OBEDIENT KIDS...
Let's play baseball!
Ha ha ha
con-science
slap slap
Onii-chan~

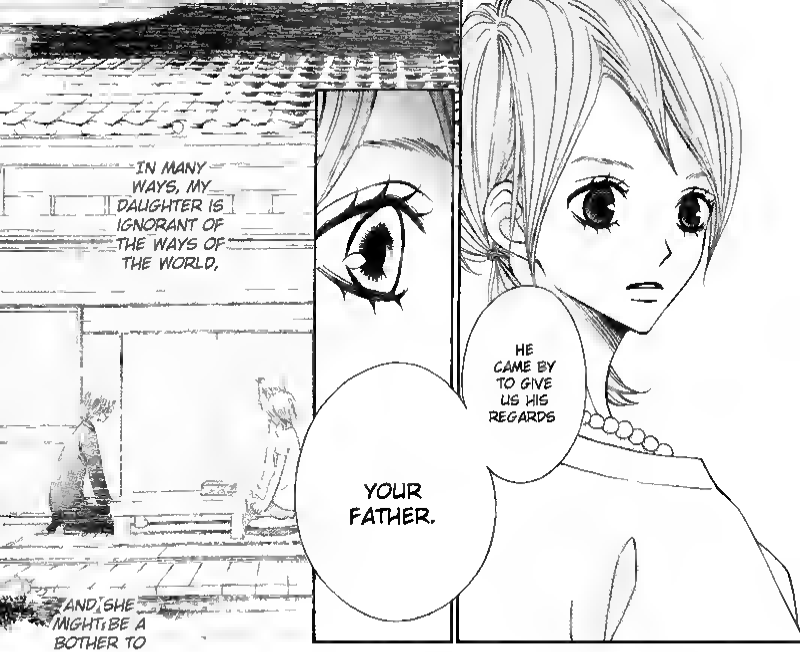
UNTIL THEY GROW A LITTLE BIT OLDER,
WOULDN'T THEY LIKE TO HAVE A GOAL...?
WON'T THAT BE TOUGH?
ONCE THEY GROW OLDER,
I'LL TELL THEM THE TRUTH...
BUT...

Onii-chan, I
like even onii-chan's shortcom-ings...
Hahaha, let go you're heavy ☆
When they grow older, I'll tell them all about Rurika's awesome-ness!!
...
step step
...I WANTED A YOUNGER SISTER TO FULLY ACCEPT MY USELESS SELF...!!
♡
don

I'LL HELP YOU.
MY, THANK YOU.
stare
OH?
?
KIYOKA-CHAN, YOU'VE GOTTEN PRETTY GOOD AT THIS.
E he he
-In the beginning you were terri- no never-mind
UM...
I WANTED TO ASK SOME-THING...

RENT?
¥
IT'S AROUND THAT AMOUNT...
IT'S BEING PAID BY BANK TRANSFER THOUGH, SO IT'S ALRIGHT.
DIDN'T YOU KNOW ABOUT IT WHEN IT WAS DECIDED ON?
YES. UM.
HOW MUCH IS IT...?
OH, YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
Um, well *whisper*

...WHEN I SAID THAT I WAS GOING TO LIVE ON MY OWN,
I GOT PERMISSION THAT IF I WAS TO STAY HERE, THE DECISION WAS TO BE MADE FOR ME...
I SEE...
WHEN WE SAID THAT WE WERE STARTING A BOARDING HOUSE,
SOMEONE INTRODUCED HIM TO US
THIS PERSON WHO SAID, "SHE'S MY PRECIOUS ONLY DAUGHTER."


IN MANY WAYS, MY DAUGHTER IS IGNORANT OF THE WAYS OF THE WORLD,
AND, SHE MIGHT BE A BOTHER TO YOU, BUT
HE CAME BY TO GIVE US HIS REGARDS
YOUR FATHER.

I LEAVE HER IN YOUR CARE.
Hmm hmm

IS THAT SO...
HEY!

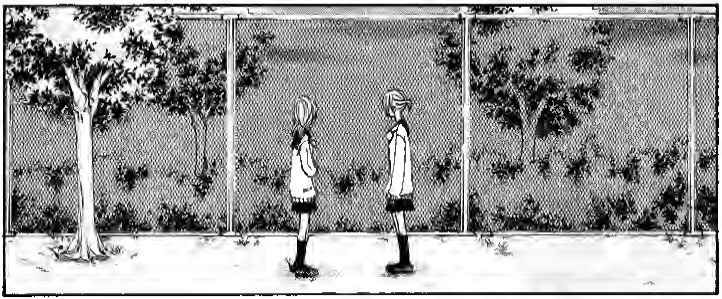
THEY'VE GONE!
HEY!
Ah?
NARA-HASHI!
GO——AL!
fwee+

WHAT WERE YOU DOING, NARA-HASHI?!
STOP SPACING OUT!
YES!
I'M SORRY!
Concentrate!
Sorry
HEY!

HELLO!
WHAT'S UP, YAMADA-SAN?
O-I
SU!!
HM, DON'T WORRY, JUST CARRY ON.
YOU'RE SLACK-ING, SOU-HEI!
Hiii
THE PREVIOUS CAPTAIN?!
ANYWAY, SOUHEI! RUN FIVE LAPS!!
Again
Does he hate me?
...LIKE THAT?
...
RUN
Uh

YUP.
THANKS.
YOU SURE? JUST THAT?
IF YOU WANT, I CAN DO MORE...
I'll do anything for you, Kataoka!
YEAH.
IT'S ALREADY ALRIGHT.

EH.
SURE?
YEAH.
THAT'LL BE THE LAST ONE.
LET'S GO HOME.
AH, YAMADA.
I'LL TREAT YOU TO SOMETHING TODAY.
EH!
REALLY?
ALRIGHT!
He he



I'M SORRY.

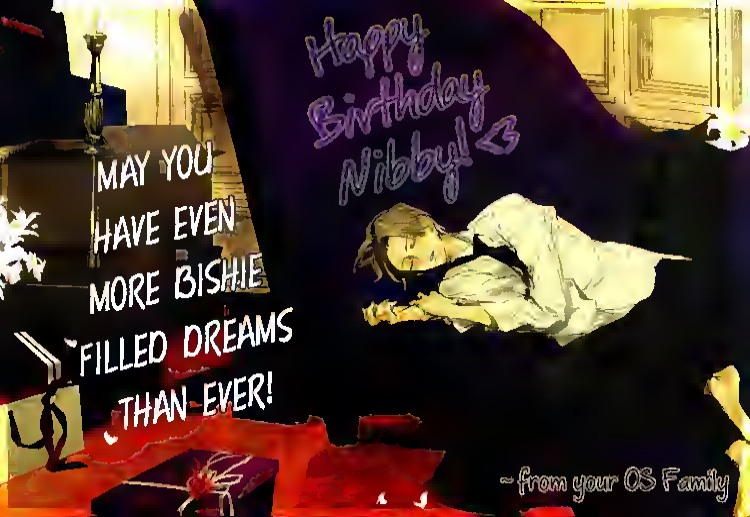
FOR SHOWING OFF HOW CLOSE WE ARE
AND FOR SELFISHLY
LIKING SOUHEI.
BUT

I DON'T HAVE ANY REGRETS.

MIKU-CHAN.

I TOLD SOU-CHAN

THAT I WANTED TO BREAK UP WITH HIM.


Happy Birthday Nibby! <3
MAY YOU HAVE EVEN MORE BISHIE FILLED DREAMS THAN EVER!
~ from your OS Family

Sprout

by Nanba Atsuko

Volume 07 Chapter 26

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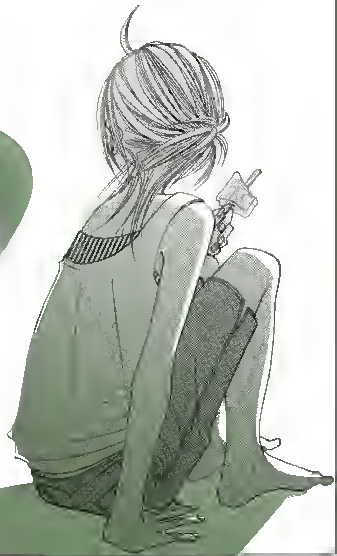


Chapter 26 ✤ A Storm

Sprout

I TOLD SOU-CHAN
I WANT TO BREAK
UP WITH HIM.

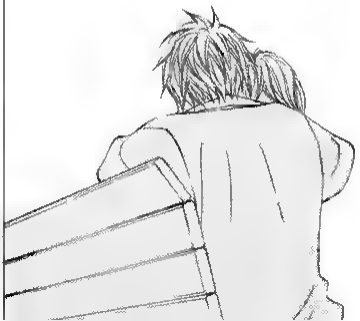
I WAS ALWAYS UNSURE
THAT EVEN THOUGH IT'S NOT ME, OTHER GUYS WOULD BE FINE...
SOU-CHAN.

SOU-CHAN.
I
THOUGHT THERE'S NO ONE ELSE FOR ME BUT YOU.

THAT'S

WHAT I THOUGHT...

SOU-CHAN.



IT MIGHT BE JUST AS YOU SAID.
...BUT, BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU SAID
Don't listen to them, don't listen to them!
Seriously?
You're dating Souheiㅇ!
I WAS ABLE TO FIT IN WITH THE OTHERS.
EVEN IF THEY SAY BAD THINGS, I DON'T MIND THEM AS MUCH AS I DID BEFORE.

MIYU...
SOU-CHAN.

SHOULD WE BREAK UP?
WHY?!

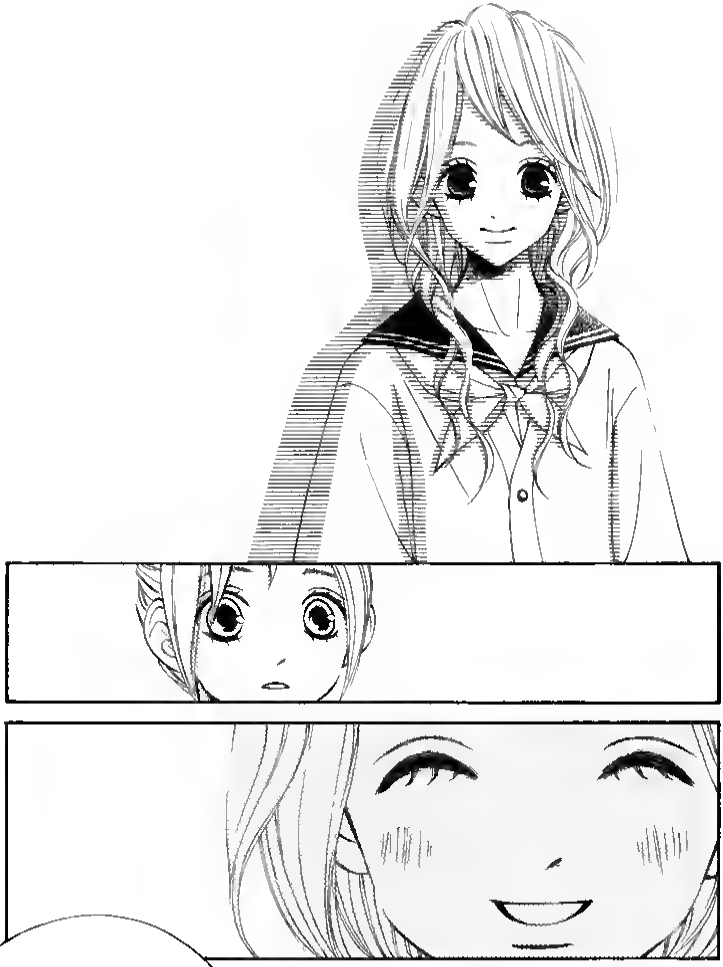
...
THERE'S NO ONE ELSE FOR ME BUT SOU-CHAN.
...I
...THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT, TOO.

...
I HATED IT WHEN SOU-CHAN WAS THINKING OF OTHERS.
BUT, IT'S NOT "UNEASINESS."
I WAS SIMPLY "UNSATISFIED."

I BEGAN TO TAKE SOU-CHAN, WHO LIKES ME, FOR GRANTED.
I WAS SIMPLY BEING MY SPOILED SELF.
THAT'S ALL.
...BYE.

AH!
"AH, UZAMIYU —"

"LET'S GO TOGETHER."
"!"


I WANTED TO BE GOOD FRIENDS WITH MIKU-CHAN.

SLIDE
I'M HOME...
WELCOME BACK!
IT DIDN'T RAIN TODAY?
YEAH..
LET'S HAVE YAKINIKU TODAY!

*Note: Kiri = Paulownia tomentosa.
Paulownia tomentosa is the scientific name for the Empress Tree or Foxglove Tree. For more info visit http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paulownia_tomentosa

IT'S ANOTHER KIRI* BOX...!!
And there's 2 layers of it too
KIYOKA'S FATHER SENT US GOOD MEAT AGAIN.
Ufufu
Wah
AUNTY, IS THIS THE IRON PLATE?

...AGAIN?
Veggies, veggies
Ki-kiyoka-san
Give me that
HE SENT SOME-THING LIKE THIS AGAIN.
IT'S SO OBVIOUS THAT HE'S TRYING TO EARN SOME BROWNIE POINTS
AH!

IT'S SO STUPID...
ring ring
KIYOKA-CHAN.
IT'S FOR YOU... Um
IT'S FROM SOMEONE IN YOUR FATHER'S ELECTION COMMITTEE...?
YES, HELLO.
YES, THANK YOU...
HUH?

CLATTER
Eat lots of vege-tables
...?
creak...
SLIDE
KIYOKA-SAN?!
WHAT'S WRO-...

...
THEY BROUGHT HIM TO THE HOSPITAL...
DAD...
THE HOSPITAL?!
WHAT HAPPENED?
M-MOM!
I DON'T KNOW... HE JUST SUDDENLY COLLAPSED AND THEY BROUGHT HIM THERE...
THE HOSPI-TAL...
IS YOUR FATHER ALL RIGHT?
shaky
wobbly
I HAVE TO GO...
BUT

KIYOKA-SAN!
GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF!
WE STILL DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, RIGHT?!
WHICH HOSPITAL IS IT?!
WHAT...
HE'S IN A HOSPITAL?!
MIKU-CHAN,
PLEASE GET HER BAG FROM HER ROOM.
OK!!
IT STARTED TO RAIN, SO I'LL GET THE CAR.
I'LL TAKE YOU THERE.

ZA

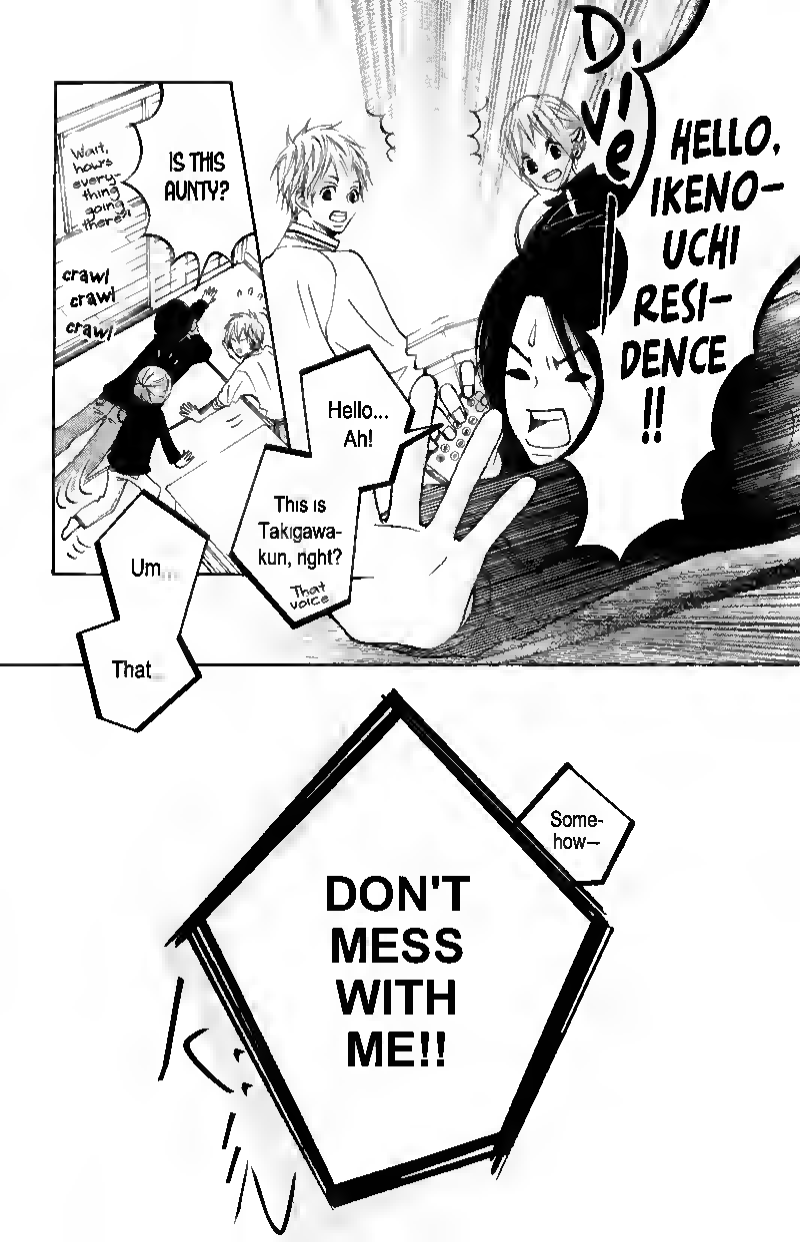
ZA
WE DON'T WANT TO CREATE A HUGE FUSS SO
YOUR DAD AND I WILL BE THE ONLY ONES GOING
O...OK...
PLEASE CALL US AS SOON AS YOU CAN!!
VROOM
ZAAA

—AH,
YOU'VE CLOSED THE SHUTTERS HERE?
—YEAH.
HOW ABOUT THE 2ND FLOOR?
TAKKI WENT TO CLOSE THEM.
I see
Typhoon no. 12 is in Honshu
...LOOKS LIKE THE TYPHOON IS HEADING HERE.
YEAH.

ZAAA
Tomorrow —
ZAAA
Rattle Rattle Rattle
ZAAA
CLATTER
ZA
AA
Uink
SHOCK!
ZAAA
Ugoo—
IT'S A BIT SCARY, HUH...
The wind...
YEAH...
SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING CAME OFF AND BROKE...
Outside
WH-WHAT IS IT, YOU THINK...
Shake Shake

...I WONDER IF THEY'RE OK.

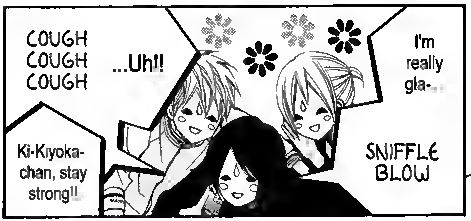
...KIYOKA-SAN.
I WONDER IF SHE'S OK.
YEAH...
THEY STILL HAVEN'T CALLED US
I WONDER HOW HER DAD'S CONDITION IS...
V.I...

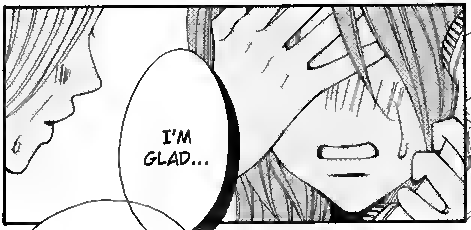

Die
HELLO, IKENO-UCHI RESI-DENCE !!
IS THIS AUNTY?
Wait, how's everything going there?!
crawl crawl crawl
Hello... Ah!
This is Takigawa-kun, right?
That voice
Um...
That...
Some-how—
DON'T MESS WITH ME!!

What was that?! It's a complete exaggeration!!
His life's not in any danger...
Don't make me worry!!
OH?
Stupid, stupid,
STUPID!
Ah, it seems that her father collapsed due to overworking and anemia...
Eh? Ah.. Thanks...
Do you want to talk to them?
Hello everyone?
KIYOKA-SAN!
Sorry about earlier.
Ho~
YEAH.
HE'S COMPLETELY FINE!!

Oh. Your daughter.
OH, KIYOKA.
BAM
DAD ...!
WHY ARE YOU SITTING UP?!
Ki-Kiyoka-chan
Whats wrong with me sitting up?
Your underwear showing
I JUST WENT MAD.
IT WAS EMBARRASSING.
hug
IT'S COMPLETELY UNDERSTANDABLE That
Ha ha ha
AS LONG AS HE'S SAFE.
THAT'S GREAT.

I just
somehow...


COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
...Uh!!
I'm really gla-
Ki-Kiyoka-chan, stay strong!!
SNIFFLE
BLOW


I'M GLAD...

THAT EVERYONE'S THERE...

I'M REALLY..
GLAD THAT I GOT TO STAY..
AT THE IKENO-UCHI'S

CASE CLOSED!!
WHAT A RELIEF—...
I wonder if she's coming back tonight
twist
twist
IT'S REALLY GREAT!!
I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE A SAD-FACE KIYOKA-SAN FOR THE LAST TIME BEFORE I MOVE OUT.
beep

Ok then, I'm going for a bath!
Ok!
BEFORE I MOVE OUT...

AH~
I'M SO TIRED FROM ALL THE WORRYING...
POP
I'M GOING FOR A BATH AFTER TAKKI...
YOU... BROKE UP WITH MIYU-CHAN?
...SOUHEI.

...HOW DID YOU KNOW?
.. I HEARD ABOUT IT FROM MIYU HERSELF.
...

...HUH?
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO?
NOT FOR YOU.
BUT IF I MADE THINGS WORSE
IT'S FINE
WHY?
I MEAN...
WAS IT MY FAULT?

...YEAH.
KIDDING.

slide
SHUT

Sprout

Merry Christmas!
~From the ○□ Family

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by Nanba Atsuko

Volume 07 Chapter 27

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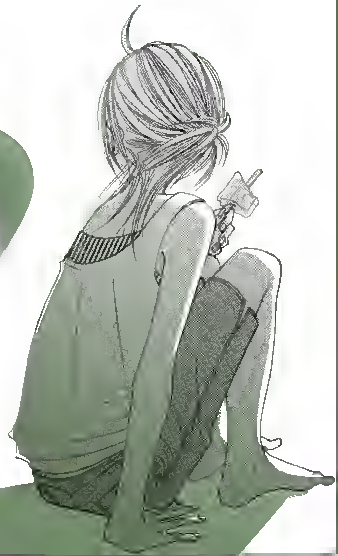
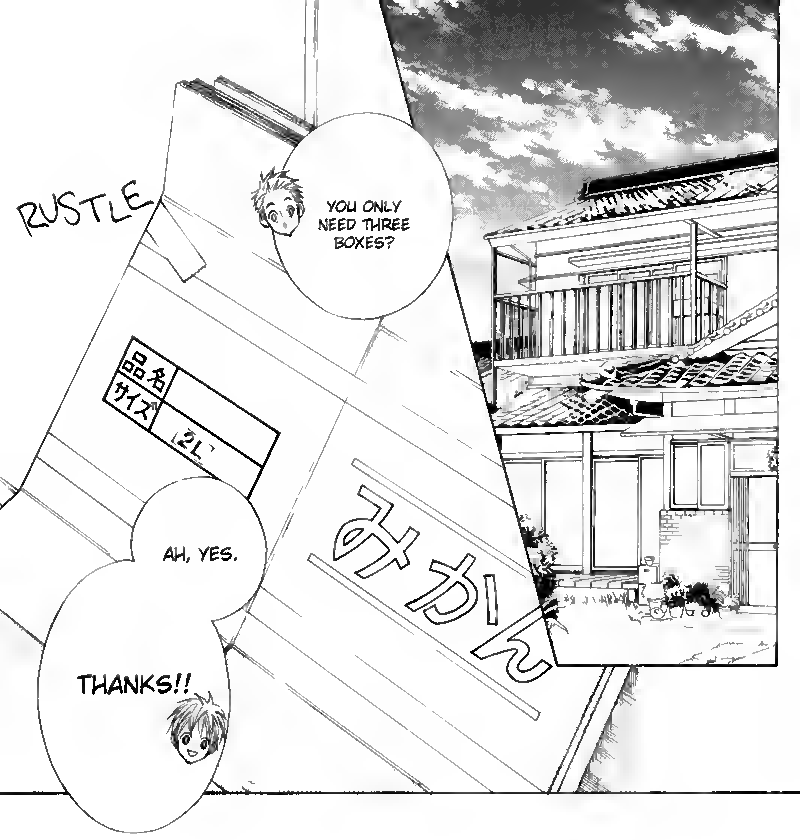


Chapter 27 ⊕ The Last Day

Sprout


RUSTLE
YOU ONLY NEED THREE BOXES?
品名
サイズ
L
AH, YES.
THANKS!!
みかん

stretch
RUSTLE
DO YOU NEED HELP?
In packing
IT'S FINE.
I DON'T HAVE A LOT OF STUFF.
AH—
I see

Next Saturday...
SLIDE
SHUT
21
20
28
Sayuhe moves out
27
26

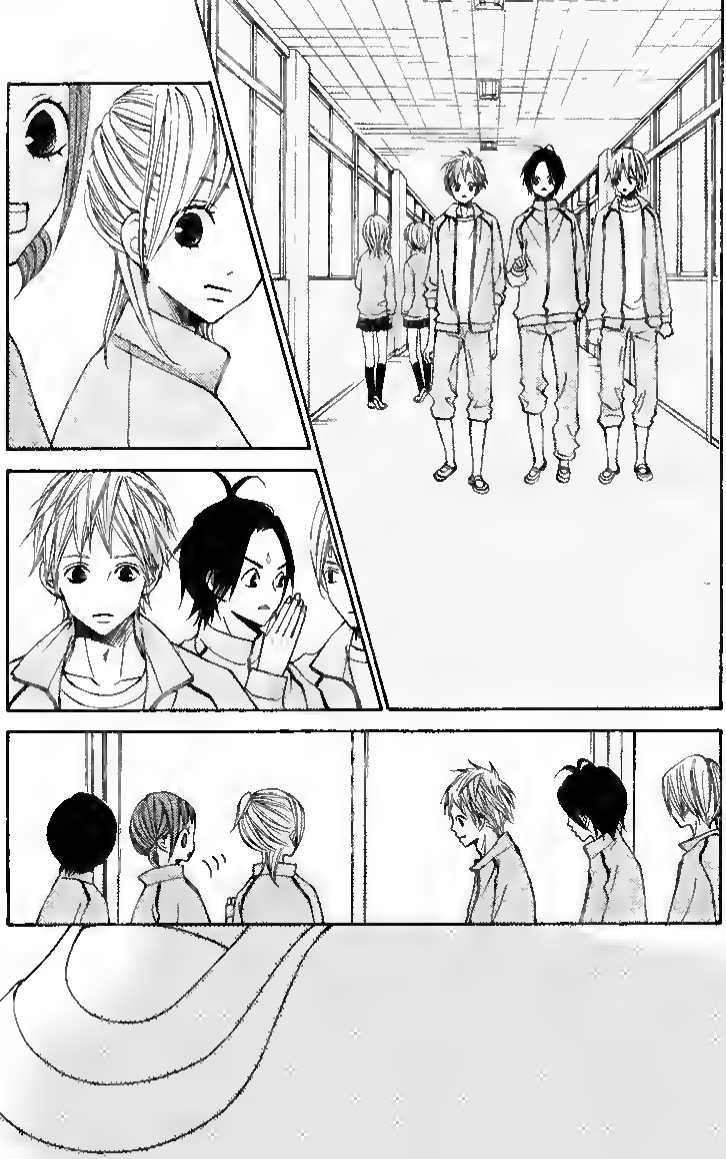
AOOH!
OZAWA MIYUKI BROKE UP WITH HER BOY-FRIEND!!
SOUHEI IS MOVING OUT.

chirp chirp
CHATTER
You're not sick or anything!!
WA!— ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
CHATTER
I HEARD IT FROM SOMEONE IN CLASS F!!
CHATTER
DOES THAT MEAN IT'S OUR CHANCE NOW?!
CHATTER
Eeehh?!
I REALLY LIKE OZAWA-SAN, AND I'LL REALLY TREASURE YOU.
THRUST
Go for it!
Fight, Yoshio!
PLEASE GO OUT WITH ME!!
...

WH-...
WHY...?
A-at least tell me why
shaky
sweep
sweep
Yoshio's rejected!!
Yoshio's rejected!!
SHOCK
NO.
HM—...
HM—
I DON'T WANT TO GO OUT WITH A GUY I DON'T LOVE.
EH?
He's promoted to second class!!
It's an honorable death!!

Aah, she's definitely cute! I don't care if she rejected me!
That hurdle was too high
Cheer up, Yoshio
...
THAT'S HOW IT IS.
THAT'S THE THIRD ONE SINCE THIS MORNING.

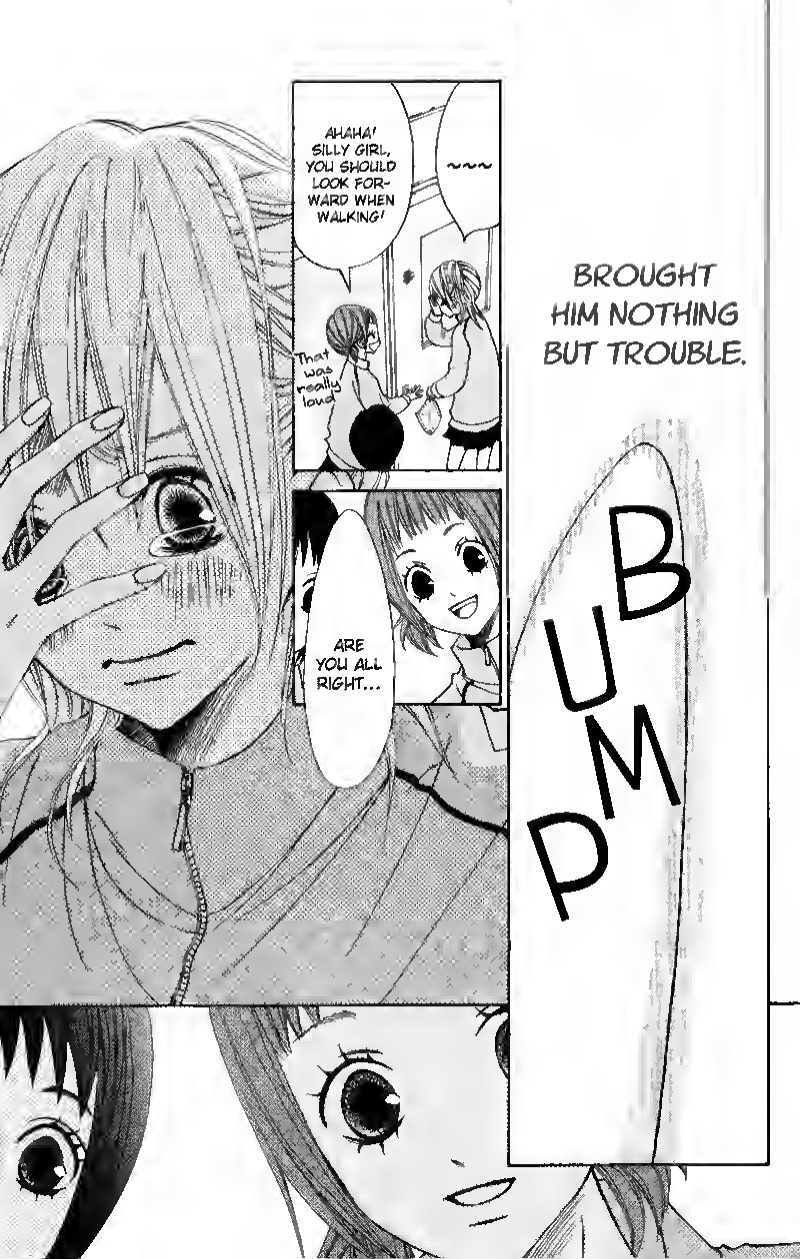
Should I take this occasion as my chance to learn the art of being cute from Oza-miyu?!
OZAMIYU'S POPULARITY REALLY IS SPECIAL!
As expected of my rival!
IT'S DEFINITELY BECAUSE SHE HAD A BOYFRIEND THAT THE GUYS DIDN'T GO NEAR HER
Done cleaning!
AH!
squeak



Eh, what?
He ignored you?!

RIGHT NOW...
Thank you!
I'll take the broom
IT'S PRETTY TOUGH.
Miku, let's go in the classroom
...IT HURTS.

SINCE I LIKED HIM, I'VE ONLY CAUSED HIM PAIN.
JUST BECAUSE THEY BROKE UP, IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT SOMETHING'S GOING TO HAPPEN BETWEEN US.
MY FEELINGS....


AHAHA! SILLY GIRL, YOU SHOULD LOOK FORWARD WHEN WALKING!
~~~
That was really loud
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT...
BROUGHT HIM NOTHING BUT TROUBLE.
BUMP
~~~

I

WANTED HIM TO LEAVE WITH GOOD MEMORIES, AT LEAST.

HELLO.
YOU'VE WORKED HARD AGAIN TODAY.
WAVE WAVE
YOU WANT TO GO HAVE A DRINK?
Dejected
WELL...
IT FEELS LIKE YOU'RE TREATING ME EVERYDAY SO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO TODAY.
EH—?
THERE'S NO NEED TO BE SHY...
I'LL PAY FOR MY OWN TODAY.

VROOM
YES.
HMM...
IS THERE SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU AGAIN?
WHAT IS IT?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
I'M HOME
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
Hm?

It's dangerous, so we better not go in the living room until it's time for dinner!!
STEER
STEER
HEY, HEY, HEY, SOUHEI-KUN! YOU CAME JUST AT THE RIGHT TIME!
rustle rustle
I HAVE A NEW FIGURINE YOU ABSOLUTELY MUST SEE!!
Come, let's go to my room!!
EH, WAIT...
...READY...
slide
FOOD'S READY!
Here he comes
Let's go—

SOUHEI-KUN'S FAREWELL PARTY
~Remembering Souhei's Deeds and his Legend!!~
FESTIVAL!!
IT'S SOUHEI'S FAREWELL PARTY
Festival?
HEHEHE...
Come in, come in
WE PREPARED THIS FOR YOU IN LIGHT OF TOMORROW.
I'm the one who came up with the subtitle
SURPRISED? SOUHEI, WERE YOU SURPRISED?
THERE'S A LOT OF KARAAGE*. You like them, right?

*Karaage = fried (e.g. potatoes, chicken)

excited
excited
REALLYYY SURPRISED!
Kyahahaha
Cheers!!

IN THE END, IT'S STILL BETTER TO STAY WITH YOUR MOM THAN HERE, RIGHT?
EVEN THOUGH HE SAID "I LOVE THIS PLACE♡", IT'S STILL BETTER FOR HIM TO STAY WITH HIS MOM
I can't charm Souhei and stop him from moving out
SOUHEI'S FAREWELL PARTY (AFTER-PARTY)
Hic
TAKKI, YOU DRANK TOO MUCH!
grab
shiver
PUFF
press
SQUEEZE
EVEN IF WE'RE NOT THERE ANYMORE, SOUHEI'S JUST FINE!
COUGH... MY NECK
A-HA HA

STUPID
YOU'RE GOING TO GET TICKLED!
Hic
Wait..
Hya
Hiii
ha ha ha ha
struggle
HUFF
—AH, WERE YOU ABLE TO CARRY KIYOKA-SAN?
sigh
zzz

YEAH.
TAKKI'S FAST ASLEEP TOO.
WELL THEN, SHALL WE CLEAN UP ? The stuff
AH! IT'S OK
THIS PARTY WAS FOR YOU.
I'll do it!
EH. NO, NO. Let me
IT'S OK.
THE BATH'S READY, SO YOU CAN GO IN.
We're going to go sleep
GO AHEAD
TAKE A BATH.

pour
pour
pour
squeeze
MIKU.
...OK,
BUT IT'S STILL REALLY HOT.
pour pour
OK.
IT'S FINE, I'LL DRINK IT WHILE I'M COOLING OFF.
steam steam
CAN I HAVE SOME BARLEY TEA?

WIPE
WIPE
SIP
blow
HEY,
...
IF YOU STAY OUTSIDE FOR TOO LONG, YOU'LL CATCH A COLD
HOW ABOUT YOU PREPARE FOR TOMORROW AND GO TO SLEEP?

HUH.
SIP
SIP
...
THANKS.
THE TRUTH IS I NOTICED IT
THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING PREPARED FOR ME.
By everyone
EEH?!
Kiyoka-san was so happy, too
But you were so surprised, too
So embarrassing!
NO— IT'S JUST THAT I'VE ALREADY TRANSFERRED SCHOOLS EIGHT TIMES
I CAN KIND OF READ THE ATMOSPHERE.
In many ways
Y-you could've told us

...
Heh
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN A FAKE SMILE IS USEFUL.
AND...
SORRY,
FOR IGNORING YOU...

...BECAUSE THE PEOPLE AROUND
WERE NOISY...
sip
sip
AH.
IT'S FINISHED...

AMAZING.
DIDN'T THIS HAPPEN BEFORE?

"I LOST MY HOUSE TO A FIRE."
REMEMBER, THE DAY I ARRIVED HERE.
Ah, thank you, thank you
EH?
"WANT SOME MORE?"
DA HA HA HA
Aah
THAT'S WHY I WAS SURPRISED.
UP UNTIL THEN, YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN IN A BAD MOOD AND YOU HAVEN'T TALKED TO ME DIRECTLY

I THOUGHT, "AH, SHE'S DEFINITELY A NICE GIRL!!"
I WAS REALLY HAPPY.
...
...IN THE END, YOU WERE WRONG.
THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT.
YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT ME, RIGHT?
I was feeling down that time
THAT WAS ENOUGH.

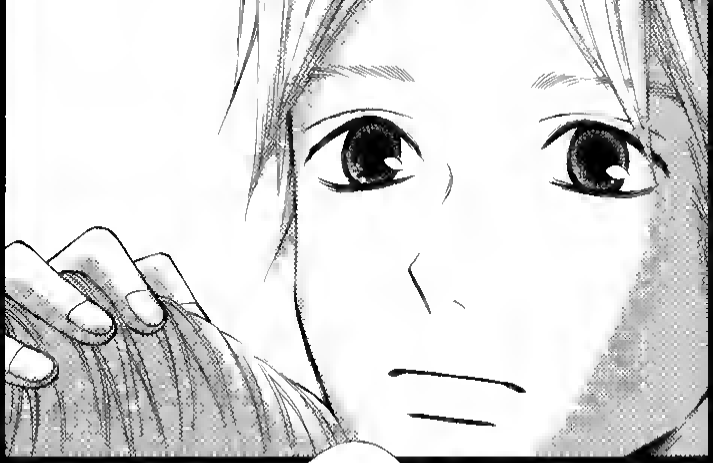
...THE BARLEY TEA THAT TIME
WAS ABSOLUTELY DELICIOUS
I'M GLAD I STAYED AT THIS HOUSE.

I
AM GLAD I CAME HERE.

...SOU-HEI.
YOU DON'T REGRET IT?
Ha
REGRET WHAT?
...I'M SORRY.

BEING HERE...
WITH ME..
YOU DIDN'T
HATE IT...?
YOU DIDN'T HATE...

…
…



...THANK YOU.

Sprout

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
WELCOME 2010~
~from the OS Family

Sprout

by Nanba Atsuko

Volume 07 Chapter 28

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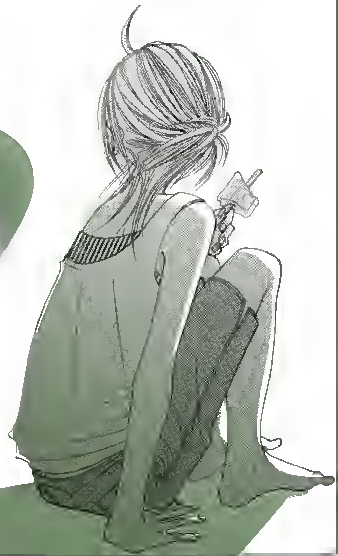


—...AH.
sof

I BROUGHT AN EXTRA BOWL AGAIN.
AH!
OH YEAH, WE DON'T HAVE TO SET A PLACE FOR SOUHEI ANYMORE...
It's already been ten days
I brought an extra pair too
HEY, HEY, HEY!
YOU'RE ACTING LIKE SOUHEI PASSED AWAY!
Stop being so serious!!
RIGHT!
Ahahaha
...

..UFUFU! WELL, SHALL WE START?
THIS IS NOT GOOD. IF WE'RE ACTING LIKE THIS NOW,
THEN WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN KIYOKA-CHAN LEAVES NEXT YEAR,
HMM?
AH!

I-I'm sorry I said it too soon
...I DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT THIS!
...I'M SORRY.
—SPRING, NEXT YEAR,
I'M THINKING OF GOING BACK HOME.

...WHY?
...AFTER THE PASSING OF MY MOTHER,
MY FATHER SEEMS TO HAVE A TOUGH TIME WITH HIS ELECTION COMMITTEE. .
"...I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T COMING..."
...BUT STILL,
HE'S MY FATHER...

I THOUGHT THERE'S NOTHING ELSE I CAN DO
BUT TO HELP HIM.
...I REALIZED THAT
AFTER COMING HERE.

I REALIZED
HOW SPOILED I WAS.

vvv
vvv
Inbox
Kiyoka-san
cc : Takki
cc : Souhei
I'll be home late today.♡
Kiyoka-san
...
Inbox
Kiyoka-san
cc : Takki
cc : Souhei
I'll be home late today.♡
END

From now on, if something happens, you can send to the group!!
How did you do that?
WE'VE ALWAYS SENT TO THE GROUP.
C : Souhei
...OH?
SHE SENT IT TO SOUHEI, TOO.
Really Kiyoki-san
AHAHA.
pu fu
v.ing...

ring
ring
ring
EH!
?
!
*Note: Onii-chan is older brother
beep
Incoming
>> Onii-chan
click
HELLO...
Oh?
Miku!
How
have you
been?
YEAH...
How's
everyone?
Are they doing
well?
YEAH...
AH, BUT...

Souta-kun? He's not there? Why?
Eh!
SOUHEI'S
NOT HERE ANYMORE.
IT'S "SOUHEI"...
HE'S MOVED OUT...
Eeh, really?!
KIYOKA-SAN TOO,
WILL MOVE OUT...

Eh,
Kiyoka-san too?
That pretty girl?
Ueeh
Hey, hey, hey!
Miku!
Are you all right?
Uh...
Ueeh
B... BUT
EVERYONE'S LEAVING...
Sniffle
Ueeh

I DON'T LIKE IT...
E... everyone's growing apart...
sniffle...
Even Takki... He's going to leave one day...
Kuh...
Kukuku...
kukuku
I wonder who it was who cried and said "I don't want a boarding house"
Uh...
BUT... WE WERE LIKE FAMILY ALREADY...
If they leave, we're not going to be a family anymore, you know?

"OK, I'M GOING!!"
So that's what you think, huh...
Onii-chan is lonely
shake
shake
sniffle
UH...
UGH...

Nothing
changed,
right?
STATION
chime

I'll send you an interesting picture!!
squeak
pedal
grip
...MY HOME
ISN'T THIS WAY ANYMORE...

chime
pedal
SOUHEI!

YO.
GOING HOME?
YA.. YAMADA-SENPAI...
*Note: Senpai means senior or upperclassman
I-I'M IN A HURRY TODAY..
chirrrn
AH— WAIT A MINUTE!
IS THERE ANYTHING I SHOULD DO TODAY?
AH, NO. IT'S ALL RIGHT ALREADY
whisper whisper
SO HE'S THE ONE WORKING IN THE BACKGROUND THE WHOLE TIME!!!
Run around the grounds ten times!!

YO.
...HELLO.
turn
YOU'VE MOVED OUT
FROM MIKU-CHAN'S PLACE?
...
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
HMM,
WELL.
Someone told me.
...KATAOKA-SENPAI,
YOU DON'T LIKE ME, DO YOU...

AND IT LOOKS LIKE YOU NO LONGER HAVE ANY TIES TO HER.
YOU'VE MOVED OUT OF THE BOARDING HOUSE.
...BUT IT'S ALL RIGHT ALREADY.
It's fine though
YUP.
Smile

...YOU TOO, KATAOKA-SENPAI.

YOU'RE
NOT MIKU'S BOYFRIEND ANYMORE.
PUNCH
CRASH

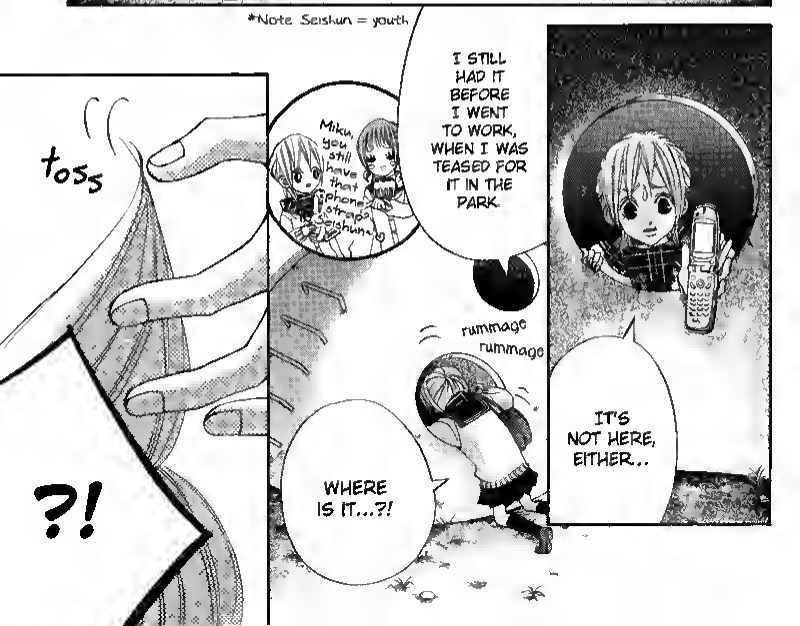
Can you stand?
SORRY.
...
HIT
GYA
KATA-OKA—!!
drop
YOU WANT TO GET HIT?
AH, SORRY, I ALREADY DID...
KA-KATA-OKA!
...
...I
DON'T EAT MEALS WITH MIKU ANYMORE
scrunch
OR GO HOME TO THE SAME HOUSE,

IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT THERE'S NOTHING LEFT.
BUT
bang

FOMA
This is Miku. I've just finished work. I'm heading home
click
click
click
I have to send a message that I'm going home
click
...AH?
THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK
Yes, you too
BAM

THE PHONE STRAP
IS GONE.
rummage
rustle
IT'S NOT HERE
...
NOT HERE
Oh? Ikenouchi-san I thought you went home
I'm at the park nearby. I'm looking for something. I might be late, but please don't worry about me.
Miku
Looking for something
IT'S FROM MIKU. SHE SAID SHE MIGHT BE HOME LATE.
OOH.
SHE SENT IT TO ME TOO.

*Note Seishun = youth


toss
?!
Miku, you still have that phone strap, Seishun-kun
I STILL HAD IT BEFORE I WENT TO WORK, WHEN I WAS TEASED FOR IT IN THE PARK.
rummage rummage
WHERE IS IT...?!
IT'S NOT HERE, EITHER..

GYAA!!
Wah?!
I... I fell inside...
WHAT... WHO...
ARE YOU SOME KIND OF PERVERT ...?!
GyAA
You sneak up and then—
...DID YOU FIND
WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR?

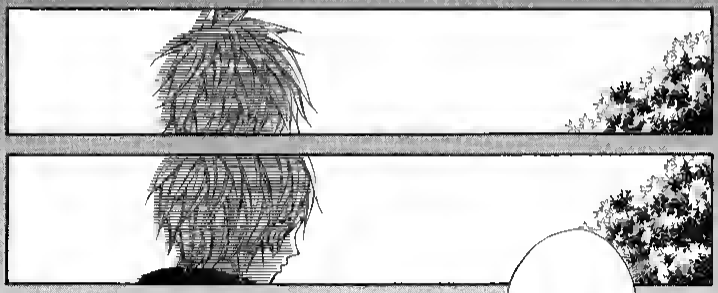
—YOU LOST THE PHONE STRAP?
YEAH.
Uh
Come on
IT'S FINE.
YOU CAN LOOK FOR IT IN THE MORNING.
BUT...
SOMEONE MIGHT PICK IT UP...
I have to find it soon
NO ONE'S GOING TO PICK UP
Jingle
SOME-THING SO TACKY!
Haha.

SEISHUN★
WE'LL LOOK FOR IT TOMORROW,
WHEN THERE'S DAYLIGHT.
..BY THE WAY,
HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?
AH?
Tada~
I got an email
I'm at the park nearby. I'm looking for something
HOW... AH!
SORRY, I MEANT TO SEND IT TO THE PEOPLE AT HOME.
Sorry!
...
sigh
THAT HURTS.
IT HASN'T BEEN TWO WEEKS SINCE I LEFT AND I'M BEING TREATED LIKE AN OUTSIDER.

...YEAH, I'M SORRY FOR SENDING THAT MESSAGE TO AN OUTSIDER.
Hi hi hi
Oh!
MEANIE!!
WERE YOU LONELY?
NOT REALLY
Mom's there
Like me just happen to have the same classes sometimes.
...We're just like Friends.
squeak squeak
...I MEAN, I'M KIDDING.
EH?
Like normal
squeak
I AM A BIT LONELY.
I miss the noise
"A BIT"?
YOU MEAN, "QUITE," RIGHT?
Shut up!
Friends.

YOU'LL STOP BY FOR A BIT, RIGHT?
...
...NO.
NOT TODAY.
squeak
squeak
...WE HAVE BARLEY TEA
NO, IT'S OK.

When you get separated from a friend,
THEY MISS YOU...
it doesn't feel this lonely.
squeak
We're not friends, are we?
...I'M SURE KIYOKA-SAN AND TAKKI WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU.



...YEAH.

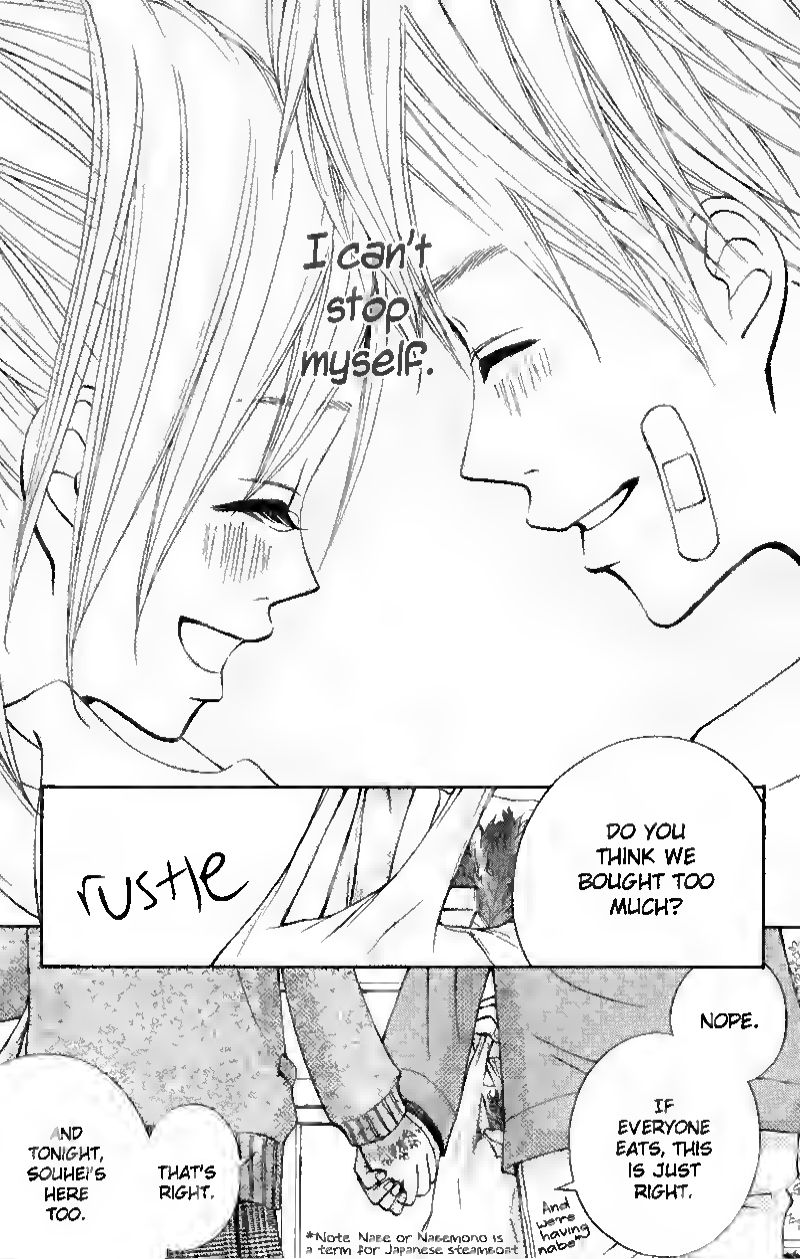
IT IS LONELY—

WHEN MIKU IS NOT THERE.

...I
JUST
WANTED TO SEE YOU.

...Is love...
...Is love really all that fun?

Even if it's not fun...
Even if there are lots of times when I cried...


I can't stop myself.
rustle
DO YOU THINK WE BOUGHT TOO MUCH?
NOPE.
IF EVERYONE EATS, THIS IS JUST RIGHT.
And we're having nabe!
*Note: Nabe or Nabemono is a term for Japanese steamboat
THAT'S RIGHT.
AND TONIGHT, SOUHEI'S HERE TOO.

SPROUT ✦ END

Sprout

Taniyama Kyoka
Yahho~ ^_^
Thanks for the advice the other day ♡
Let's meet at the cafe again,
I'll treat you ♡

連載
LOVE♥LOCKET
5th SEASON
完全
書下ろし!!
WILL
Tanigama
Yuko

Hello, I'm Nanba. This is the 7th volume of Sprout. That makes it the final volume of this series.
To everyone who bought the books, whether they started reading from the first volume or from the last, I thank you all.
Here comes the afterword.

Please stay with

me for a little longer.

bow

Ok, since this is the final volume, I would like to make a light conclusion and show something like behind-the-scenes

↓ ↓ Here we go~ ✿ ↓ ↓

Ikenouchi House

I mentioned it in the first volume that I modeled it after my aunt's house.
I'd like to live in a big house, too....

The vegetables that make an appearance from time to time

Sometimes Miku or Souhei can be seen carrying vegetables. They're actually grown by Miku's dad. There's a small field outside the house; that's where they're planted.

There's corn, pears, and other fruits, too.

Characters

There are relatively many characters who make an appearance, but based from the letters I received, there are fans for every one of them. Thank you very much.

Even if they're the same characters, they are perceived very differently depending on the reader; that was what I was thinking while drawing them. I think it's very interesting. Among them, Miyu is a mixture of "Liked" and "Hated".
With all the characters, if one were to rank them, which one would be the "Most Popular"...?

Dararara ← Drum roll

It's probably HIM

I didn't exactly count the votes. It's just my overall impression, but based on reasons such as "He's an otaku but a good person", "I like otakus", "Please be my onii-san", etc. There are quite a number of people who like him. I'm very grateful.

~Takigawa's comment of joy~

Love Locket

It's a fictional game in the story. I had fun drawing it. Actually, I have a story, theme song and character song for it in secret. ← Self-satisfied
~About Love Locket~
You're supposed to place a picture of the person you like inside and wear it for a period of one year. During that time, you're not allowed to show anyone what's inside the locket. If you do that, that person will return your feelings.
It's a mysterious locket that's very popular among girls♡! One day, the main character sees his younger sister Rurika put on such a locket. (This is pretty long so I'll cut it short.) It's a tale of love and youth.
It's fun to draw! but looking back, there wasn't enough moe. *
As I thought, an amateur can't just draw a moe character from casual observation. I have to study more. If I'm able to draw it someday, I'll sell my concept game to a gaming company and have them make "Love Locket" into a game, and after that, it's going to be a big hit with the onii-sans in Akihabara. And then, the mysterious locket can be produced and sold... (I'm getting too excited over my ideas so I'll cut it short.) I apologize.

SupuraIto
(Sprite)

It's the title most commonly confused title with my series. (Laugh)
The correct name is Supurauto. Spelled with a "u," not with an "i". Sorry for bringing this up at the end. (Laugh)
I've been asked a lot about the meaning of the title as well, but the word "sprout" can have multiple meanings. You can't just give one word that will encompass it. Maybe next time you're in, say, an English class and the word "sprout" comes up and you look it up on your dictionary, it would make me happy if you go, "Ah, so that's what "sprout" means... and come to think of it, there's a manga title of the same name."

*Note: Moe is a Japanese slag for a strong interest in a particular type of character in video games, anime or manga

The End

It has taken me roughly two and
a half years to finish this series.
I've been pleased, depressed, elated and
miserable — there's been a lot of things going
on, but somehow I was able to get through
them, all thanks to these people:
My assistants who have been by my side every
time to help me with my manuscripts,
My manager who never abandoned me and
stayed with me no matter what,
The staff who watched over me
despite me bothering them,
And of course, each and every
one who read the books
If I could, I would like to go and say thank
you in person, but if I actually did that, I
think that would be a huge bother to you, so
I'll restrain myself. But in my heart,
I'll always be by your side!
Eh? Even that is annoying? I—I'm sorry.

Let me pull myself together and say,

thank you from the bottom of my heart.

SPECIAL THANKS

I. Kozakura
K. Nishiuchi
K. Higurashi
S. Moro

my family
my friends
Y. Furuichi
H. Kanaumi

"BESSATSU FRIEND"

and YOU

Atsuko Namba
Apr. 2008